DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 350 824 FL 020 523

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TITLE Translation and Interpretation: Retrospect and Prospect.
PUB DATE 88
NOTE 7p.; In: Grunwell, Pamela, Ed. Applied Linguistics in Society. Papers from the Annual Meeting of the British Association for Applied Linguistics (20th, Nottingham, England, United Kingdom, September 1987. British Studies in Applied Linguistics, 3; see FL 020 520.
PUB TYPE Viewpoints (Opinion/Position Papers, Essays, etc.) (120) -- Speeches/Conference Papers (150)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Applied Linguistics; *Aptitude Tests; Certification; *Educational Change; Educational Trends; Employment Potential; Foreign Countries; Futures (of Society); Intellectual Disciplines; *Interpreters; Language Research; *Linguistic Theory; Machine Translation; Professional Training; Social Change; Specialization; *Translation; Trend Analysis

ABSTRACT

In the last 35 years, translation has become a profession. Its format has moved somewhat away from books to encompass all other print materials, its topic has broadened from literature to every kind of information, and its readership has spread worldwide. The profession has gained greater prominence due to the increase in international organizations, decolonization, acceptance of bilingualism, recognition of minority language groups, increasing importance of English as an international language, tourism, trade, and the widening of democracy. In language courses, translation has an improved image, and many books and papers have been published on the topic. Most of these materials have focused more on the theory of translation than on methods. Certification and specialization in simultaneous, consecutive, conference, or court interpretation are increasingly common. Too much research has been devoted to interpretation aptitude testing, when motivation is sometimes a more important criterion than aptitude. The field of translation will only become larger and more visible. Machine translation will also see great development, and the field will become more scientific. Interpretation also has a secure future, particularly as video and sound technology evolves. A 19-item bibliography is included. (MSE)

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TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION : RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT

(for Roland Sussex)
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"25 years", John Trim states "is not a long time in language teaching". Extend this period to 35 years and you find the situation in translation and interpretation has been completely transformed.

Translation has become a profession, consisting of staff translators, revisers, freelancers, terminologists, contract (usually literary) translators, pre- and post-editors in Machine Translation. Its format has partly moved away from books to reports, contracts, brochures, manuals, magazines, instructions, notices, advertisements; its topic from literature and 'great works' to every type of information, with the emphasis on technology and business. Its readership has spread like democracy. In 1984 150 million pages were translated, employing 175,000 translators. The EEC at Brussels employed 2,500 translators and 500 interpreters, causing immense budget problems and spurring on the improvement of Machine Translation (MT). In 1957, the International Federation of Translators (FIT) was founded; it now has about 50 national members. Translation has been given greater prominence as a consequence of a number of international developments. These include: the increase in the number of international organisations: decolonisation of Africa and Asia and the consequent increased number of independent nations; the acceptance of bilingualism in many countries (eg. Spain, Czechoslovakia); the recognition of minority language groups in most countries; the continuously increasing importance of English as the world language, (over four times more is translated from English than from any other language); world-wide tourism, (multi-lingual brochures and notices); international trade, and a widening of democracy that goes with the concept of the particular value of every language and the liberating function of translation in combatting obscurantism, (a function that it has always had).

In summary the purposes of translation are perhaps fourfold:

1. to promote understanding between nations, groups and individuals;
2. to facilitate the spread of useful information (technology transfer);
3. to explain the features of national and regional cultures;
4. to further the appreciation of great works of literature, science and the humanities, many of which expose the harmful features of cultures (as does translation itself) within a universal ethical perspective or *optique*, (previously often its only purpose).

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Vocational translation courses in many countries have been 'promoted' from institutes and colleges to polytechnics and universities. Thus training has become education. Whilst translation classes, (in two languages) are text-based, they now encompass a variety of formats (articles, reports, advertisements, textbooks), on a variety of topics (business and technology) are translated in a variety of ways (full translation, summary, gist, specific questions/functional translation). The texts themselves have to be self-sufficent with a statement of their sources : title, author, periodical or publisher, date, as they should be in any school or university examination. These are the basis of a curriculum, which is supported by courses in cultural, institutional and subject backgrounds; translation criticism; principles and methods of translation (previously known as 'translation theory'); the practice of MT, and optionally a third language and technical writing.

In language learning courses, translation is no longer a dirty word, though its position is controversial. Its use from L1 to L2 as a form of control or revision has to be examined, and from L2 to L1 its separate purposes : (a) accurate and economical rendering at author's or readership's level; (b) stylistic exercises; (c) L1 or L2 enrichment, have to determined.

In the last 35 years, many books and papers have been published about translation. Previously it was the subject primarily of literary essays and commentaries. It has become a branch of applied linguistics practised too often by linguists who are not writers and who are without professional experience of translation. Clearly some frame of reference for translators and particularly learners is now necessary. Translation is a creative, problem-solving occupation. The problems at all ranks of the text (from the morpheme or punctuation mark through collocations and metaphors etc., to clauses, sentences, paragraphs and up to the text itself) have to be related to a variety of contextual factors before a variety of translation procedures are considered and a choice recommended. The frame of reference is necessarily based on a theory of language and then a theory of translation. Both theories have to be stated, but their use to the translators derive from their application to the various problems. Therefore the analogous translation examples have to be cited. For example:

PROBLEM	CONTEXTUAL FACTORS	TRANSLATION PROCEDURES
Bundestag (in German SL Text)	Type of readership Source House style Text-type and category Recurrence Importance	Transference: *Bundestag* Recognized translation: *Bundestag* Official translation: *Federal German Parliament* Descriptive equivalent: *W.German Parliament* Cultural equivalent: *W.German House of Commons*

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These considerations as I see it are the main part of a Principles and Methods of Translation course.

However, most writings on translation have been concerned with general theories of translation. Most notably they have dwelt upon the time- honoured enigmas; viz the definition of equivalence, translatability, invariance, fidelity, the unit of translation, free translation, literal translation and the respective merits of the two latter. The discussion of these issues is often conducted without translation examples, and therefore in the abstract and of no use to translators. Nevertheless significant contributions have been made about the relevance of social culture and the importance of the readership by Nida (1984); on standardizing translation procedures first by Vinay and Darbelnet (1964), then by Catford (1965); on the need to typologise texts by Reiss (1971) and House (1977) - for example you don't translate a lyrical poem and a soap advertisement in the same way; on the application of linguistics to poetry translation by Levy (1969); on the translation of metaphors by Dagut (1976); on the influence of prejudices on translation by Alknis (1980). Much has also been written on the application of text linguistics to translation. There remains however an appalling measure of disagreement on the qualities of a good translation : What is to be translated? - the words in their context, the message, the explicit meaning, the implicit meaning, what the author meant (but failed to state), the text corrected to the facts etc? And for whom? - the author's target language mirror image, the translator, the putative readership? And what is the place of literal translation in a good translation? There has also been too little written on the three stages of translating:

1. the approach
2. the process
3. the revision.

Translation is the superordinate term for converting the meaning of any source language utterance to the target language. In a narrower definition translation is written to written and interpretation is spoken to spoken. Interpretation (from the dragoman onwards) is one of the oldest of professions, but conference simultaneous interpretation came of age in the Nuremberg Trials of Nazi war criminals in 1945-47. Professional conference interpreters are employed by the international organisations and are members of AIIC, the International Association of Conference Interpreters. Full-time interpreters are more common in non-anglophone (particularly developing) countries than in anglophone countries, where they are usually employed on contract for particular engagements. Conference interpreting is a much smaller profession than translating.

In recent years the requirements for community interpreters in the courts,

for doctors, for the police, for education and social welfare officials has been widely recognized. (For example there are 5 million Hispanics in the USA alone). In this country the profession is being certificated by the Institute of Linguists examination. Techniques of interpreting sign language for the deaf are being improved, and for TV and films the respective merits of sub-titling and dubbing (from lip-synchronisation) to nuclear-sync (synchronisation of emphasis and gesture) are being studied.

Specialized simultaneous and consecutive interpretation are taught in the UK at half a dozen institutions. The market and the candidates from African countries for these courses is often more numerous than from UK. As in translation, students do not specialize but study topics. To an outsider like myself the controversy about the most suitable symbol language for note-taking appears to be dead, as virtually all conference interpretation is in the booths. Further, in community interpretation the tiresome consecutive method should be unnecessary as a simultaneous whispered voice-over (or rather 'voice-under') should be more efficient.

Too much research has been devoted to interpretation aptitude testing. As in some other areas motivation is more important than aptitude, and (to my surprise and pleasure) John Henderson's unpublished doctoral thesis at Bradford demonstrated that there was little difference in temperament and character between interpreters and translators. Psycholinguistic research on memory-training, semantic differentials (Osgood) and body language is centrally applicable to interpretation, but the main research (and there has been too little) has to be focused on the *process* of interpreting which Lederer (1985) has pioneered. Of necessity in interpretation (but not in translation) the source language text disappears, is 'deverbalised' and the interpreters are forced to reproduce a reduced 'message' which is however enriched by observation and hearing of the speaker and secondly by their own tone of voice. Interpreters have to think fast - metaphors are more often reduced to sense than recreated - and to be wary of the immediate pragmatic effect on their speaker's audience. To my knowledge these matters have been insufficiently discussed. The literature on community interpreting here and in America is only in its infancy. A interesting paper is included in these Proceedings, (see Harrison *et al* this volume).

The prospects both for translation and interpretation are inevitably enormous, given the continuously increasing need for better communication between increasingly large and numerous groupings of languages.

To begin with, translation will become more visible and more public : not only in airports and rail terminuses, but also in railway and coach stations, notices and instructions will be frequently in three language (*Bienvenue à Leicester* is at the BR station even now). Owing to the bi- or multi-lingual composition of most countries and the spread of mass tourism, many newspapers and peri-

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odicals are likely to include abstracts and summaries in one or two foreign languages. Notices and guides in public buildings (as in Lloyds now), hotels, museums, churches, art galleries and tourist sights, will be multilingual. There will be more translation periodicals such as the remarkable *INDEX*. More poetry will be translated. In finance and industry translation will have more specific functions depending on the requirements of the client or the readership, taking the form of one or two answers to questions, as well as full translations. In literature the translation of works in languages of limited diffusion will have to increasingly subsidized by private agencies as well as UNESCO. The present position where most great writers are concentrated in the major languages is suspect. Due to the media, international organisations and other contacts, languages will to some extent converge lexically without in the foreseeable future reaching Walter Benjamin's ideal of a pure universal language. Translation will continue to function not only as an expositor but as an implicit exposer of the prejudices embedded in the practices as well as the languages of many national cultures.

Secondly there is going to be a large development of Machine Translation and Machine-aided Translation. Here such questions as : when will the computer translate better/more accurately/more quickly than a human? or when will the computer be able to translate (or write) poems are ridiculous and irrelevant. Humans and machines are not rivals. MT is not only possible, it is necessary, like translation. Humans have to use computers for translation, often pre-editing and normally post-editing the texts. The more conventional the language of the texts, the more efficiently the computer will be able to translate them. A poem or an originally written text is normally beyond the computer's competence. The main criterion for any computer's use is its cost-effectiveness.

Lastly, there is the future of the scientific factor in translation. In 1959 Nida entitled a pioneering book : *Towards a Science of Translating*. We are no nearer to it. The scientific element of translating is bound up with the place of literary translation - its place (a) in a translation and (b) more frequently as a yardstick (not a criterion), as a measure of translation. Most translation theorists reject it in both these roles, they mention it only to condemn it. An honourable exception must be made of the linguist Roland Sussex, who in a lecture five years ago appeared to accept it as a matter of course. It was a refreshing occasion. Literary translation won't go away.

The future of interpretation is also secure, and particularly in an age that prefers video and sound increasingly to the printed word. Community and conference interpretation will multiply. So will pre-translated recorded texts on TV, radio, cassettes, videos, multilingual automatic devices in art galleries, palaces, castles. We might with confidence await the age of Machine Interpretation (MI) when voice synthesizers will respond to voice synthesizers and humans are finally superfluous!!

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